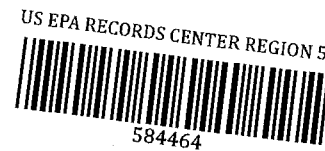


# Champion sewer study explained

By BOB COUPLAND Tribune Chronicle

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CHAMPION - Installing sump pumps and backflow preventor valves and removing roof drains from footer drains may be solutions to sewage backup in the basements of some township homes.

More than 35 people attended a public meeting Wednesday at the Trumbull Career and Technical Center, where officials explained a year-old sanitary sewer flow study.

The flooding focuses primarily on three areas of Champion, which account for 78 percent of the inflow problems. The areas include the Chocolate Run interceptor in the Kuszmaul Development, the Young's Run interceptor area, located north of the high school in the Earl and Durst allotments and including Raymond Avenue, and the point where two main interceptors feed together, south of Kent State University Trumbull Campus.

Trustee Chairman Jeff Hovanic said more than a year and a half ago, the township asked Trumbull County Sanitary Engineers to conduct a sanitary interceptor study because many homeowners complained about sewer backup in basements after heavy rains.

Representatives from the sanitary engineer's office and msconsultants of Youngstown explained the township has two main interceptor lines, Young's Run in the east and Chocolate Run in the west. Many mini-interceptors tie into the main ones which feed into Warren which does water filtration for Champion.

"The survey has provided a useful tool for the sanitary engineer's office," Hovanic said.

Hovanic said the sanitary engineer now will be able to concentrate efforts on the three areas, including the removal of silt from the system, decreasing the inflow with manhole covers, and disconnecting roof downspouts and drains from footer drains.

Hovanic said about 6,000 Champion residents are served by the system.

Dennis Yurkovich of msconsultants said his firm also looked at the inflow and infiltration of ground and surface water that was finding its way into sanitary sewers.

Portable flow meters were used in the different mini-systems from February to June 2004 to obtain data, look at sewage flow and to find sources of in flow and infiltration, Yurkovich said. He noted it was very wet during this period.

Bill Durst of the sanitary engineer's office said a survey of residents in the Kuszmaul allotments found more than half do not have sump pumps. He recommended homeowners have back flow devices and/or sump pumps installed.

"We want to try and address the areas where there is the most problems," Durst said, adding now that the study is in place, it will take several months to begin addressing the problem areas. —

Durst noted the flooding was not just a problem for Champion but also for Brookfield, Howland and Mineral Ridge, particularly when there is 2 to 3 inches of rain within a half-hour period.

Gary Shafer of the Warren Sanitary Sewer Department, said the city also has backup problems in certain areas. Shafer said what Warren has been conducting downspout inspections where some problems with discharge exist, in addition to flow monitoring, and removing combined sewers.

Shafer said many Ohio communities want homeowners to remove their footer drains from the sanitary sewers and replace them with sump pumps and backflow preventors.

Rex Fee of the sanitary engineer's office and a Champion resident, said the current sewer system was constructed in the early 1980s. In 2004, there was 375 million gallons running through it.

Hovanic said there is also the problem with silt that gets into the system. Durst added the silt is often removed through flushing the system.

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